

THE CRITIC.

The Welfare of the People is the Highest Law.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The German army on a peace footing numbers four hundred and eighteen thousand men, or one per cent. of the entire population of the empire. This force will, on the basis of the new census, be now increased to four hundred and eighty thousand men. The German army on a war footing, which includes the reserves, numbers one million eight hundred thousand men. The annual revenue of the German Confederacy is about one hundred and forty-five million dollars, of which ninety million dollars is applied to the maintenance of the army.

The French radicals in view of the coming elections have issued a manifesto, in which they declare it to be their belief that the Government should educate, board, lodge, and clothe all children between the ages of four and sixteen years. They further declare that all customs, excise, and other indirect taxes should be abolished, and that the revenue should be derived from taxes levied upon income and capital. Radicals frequently miss their aim by overshooting the mark, and the French radicals who would thus deliberately disregard the prognostications of Malthus and at the same time place an embargo upon thrift and industry, will find their theories too radical even for Frenchmen.

The recent recommendation of the British Board of Admiralty, that each village, town and city upon the coasts of the British Isles should form, and support by subscription, a naval volunteer brigade, must have been suggested by some old salt possessed of antediluvian proclivities. No doubt such a force would, in case of war, be of assistance to the ships detailed for the defence of the coast; but it is somewhat difficult to understand why the expense of such a brigade should fall exclusively upon those residing on or near the shore. The defence of the nation should be provided for by the public at large, and the locality more immediately interested should not be obliged to shoulder an undue share of its cost.

The Digby Courier takes exception to an editorial which appeared in the CRITIC, upon the summer resorts of Nova Scotia. on the ground that Digby was overlooked, while Chester and Baddeck were given undue prominence. Those who read the article in question can readily understand that space would forbid the special mention of each and every watering place in the Province worthy of note. The beating facilities of Chester and the beautiful scenery of Baddeck, being unrivalled in Nova Scotia, were particularly referred to. No doubt Digby has its peculiar charms, and as it is more accessible than either of the places mentioned, it will doubtless continue to attract scores of pleasure-seekers. Our personal experiences of Digby and the adjacent cherry village of Bear River are most pleasant, and we have found it no hardship to be reduced to a cherry diet.

If the Eastern M. S. P. wanted more than their admitted rights, we would oppose their demands to the bitter end. As, however, we know for a certainty that they are entitled to what they ask, we would not be fair or independent did we not endorse their claims.

A movement is now on foot among the members of the Anglican Church in New Brunswick to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Bishop Medley's work in that diocese. It is proposed by some ardent admirers of the Metropolitan to establish a Medley scholarship or professorship in connection with King's College, Windsor. Bishop Medley has certainly done much to build up the Church in New Brunswick, and he deserves well of her people. The endowment of a chair at King's would certainly be a most graceful acknowledgment of his services, and as it would at the same time strengthen the University at Windsor, it is to be hoped that the proposition may meet with a general approval and hearty support of the Church people in New Brunswick.

The elements of the greatness of Great Britain were ships, iron, and coal. We have the ships; we have the coal. Wherever we are known, we are credited with these. But what of the iron? Have we made the most of that? The Londonderry Mines are not (owing, we are informed, to injudicious management), of the gigantic importance that the iron mines of this Province ought to be; and yet no other mine of the kind has been properly opened in the Province. The best iron ore in the Province is to be found in Cape Breton and Pictou. Many people who have at heart the best interest of the whole Province, believe that, as there is known to be an immense quantity of ore in Cape Breton and Pictou, with the materials around for smelting, etc., it would be well for the Local Government to take some steps to second private enterprise, and so have a new industry in the eastern portion of the Province.

The outlook for the sugar planters is much more bright than it has been for many a year. What agricultural science has done for the sugar beet industry, chemical science is now doing for that of the sugar cane industry. If the new process of sugar making discovered by Frobach, of Berlin, proves equal to all that is claimed for it, it will completely revolutionize the sugar trade. For years it has been conceded that the present method of extracting the sugar from the cane is defective and expensive. The new process dispenses altogether with crushing and pressing. The cane being cut into strips the water first extracted by alcoholic vapor, the saccharine being left in the cane. This is then treated with liquid alcohol. It is asserted that this extracts all the saccharine. Afterward the sugar is extracted from the alcohol by being filtered through lime and chalk. If this process proves successful it will at once add a third to the present production of cane sugar, or at least 1,500,000 tons.

The terrible engines of destruction, which are daily being invented for use in war, both on land and sea, have, it is claimed, relatively increased in power more rapidly, than have the means of defence. In other words, the improvement of defensive armor has by no means kept pace with the improvements which have been made in projectile and other weapons. Admiral Sir George Elliot is of the opinion that a few locomotive torpedo boats, placed at the entrance of a harbor, would be able to prevent a British squadron from entering the same. Hobart Pasha, on the other hand, affirms in the columns of *Blackwood's*, that the destructive power of torpedoes, and torpedo boats, has been greatly overrated. One thing is certain, no war has occurred in modern times between two great powers, in which the truth or falsity of these statements could be shewn; and we sincerely trust that many decades may yet slip by before these destructive engines shall have been put to the test.

The black camel which kneels at the gates of all has long been crouching near the entrance to the home of the man who played the most conspicuous part during the rebellion in the United States. The death of General Grant will be mourned by a grateful nation, and his memory cherished by a thankful people. As a soldier, General Grant relied upon superior force, and his military achievements, although brilliant, cannot be considered as displaying great generalship. As President of the United States, Grant allowed himself to be made the tool of partizan leaders, and his ambition made his obedience to their sway complete. The misfortune of his later years have re-awakened the public interest in his welfare and the dogged determination with which he set about writing his war notes, while prostrated by a fell disease, touched the hearts of a kind and sympathetic people. Grant was more famous in life than in death. "Fame, we may understand, is no sure test of merit, but only a probability of such: it is an accident, not a property of a man." General Grant awoke one morning and found himself famous; it was, however, a transient fame, such as the span of a human life will serve to cover, but when the lapse of a century shall have heaped its hundred time-scrolls o'er his grave, his fame will be known only to the student of History; and even there it will fade into obscurity, as compared with the man who had the moral courage, by one stroke of his pen, to liberate from a cruel bondage 4,000,000 of our fellow-beings.